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SITUATION REPORTS

POLAND

Poland remains generally calm due to the approaching holiday season and the self-restraint being exercised by both Solidarity and the regime.

Some local tensions have developed because of the meat rationing plan introduced last week, but neither Solidarity nor the regime seems inclined to make these new problems a major test of wills. Solidarity also has decided, for the moment at least, not to press the regime on its ban of the film about the events in Gdansk in August.

Solidarity announced yesterday that its committee for the defense of jailed dissidents, established earlier this month, met for the first time over the weekend. In an announcement signed by union leader Walesa and 25 union officials and prominent Polish artists, the committee announced it was sending a petition to the government demanding the release of seven dissidents now being detained. No additional action apparently was threatened.

The issue is one of principle for Solidarity, since union leaders believe that the government had agreed in August not to jail Poles for their political views. Few in Solidarity, however, would support the strongly anti-Soviet, antisocialist views of those currently in jail, and it is doubtful that much worker support could be generated on their behalf. The regime, on the other hand, can be expected to stand firm.

Party officials will be busy during the next two weeks drawing up a draft program for "socialist renewal" that will be approved at next spring's extraordinary party

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congress. At the first meeting of the congress preparatory commission on Saturday, party chief Kania reasserted his support for renewal without spelling out what changes he supports.

In his speech Kania also criticized Poland's largest dissident group by name for voicing opinions that are aimed against the "fundamental interests of socialist Poland." He seemed more concerned, however, to restate that Warsaw's allies retain their trust in the Poles to solve their problems and to criticize the West for its recent statements about Poland.

Soviet Comments

TASS yesterday reported Kania's claim that the situation in Poland is improving and noted that he stressed the understanding and support that the Poles received from their allies at the Warsaw Pact summit on 5 December. According to TASS, Kania also blamed NATO for much of the noise in the Western media about "threats to Poland from our allies" and took a swipe at China for supporting this campaign.

Soviet Ambassador Semyonov was similarly upbeat at a meeting with West German Foreign Minister Genscher yesterday. Semyonov cited the Warsaw Pact communique that called for a resolution of the problem by the Poles themselves and said he believes everything is moving in that direction. His other remarks were more ambivalent--giving assurances that the Soviets do not plan to intervene, but also saying that the Soviets will make certain that no one else interferes.

A high-ranking Soviet party official, meanwhile, has denied--in an interview in the Italian *Paese Sera*--that Solidarity represents a deviation from Communist principles--the most positive statement that any Soviet official has made on the new unions in Poland. Vadim Zagladin, first deputy chief of the International Department, sidestepped questions about recent Soviet troop movements near Poland, however, admitting only that the Soviets and Poles had held joint maneuvers "a month and a half ago."

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East German Reaction

A new East German regulation governing official travel to Poland puts East German - Polish contacts on a par with those with non-Communist countries. Requests for such trips must be submitted to higher authorities, and a full report must be made after the trip is completed. This is the latest in a series of measures by East Germany designed to insulate itself from Polish influences and to demonstrate forcefully to Warsaw disapproval of the course of events.

Economic Developments

According to an Austrian official, Vienna is likely to grant Poland a two-year moratorium on its current debt of \$1.9 billion. Austria also may agree to the early release of a \$300 million credit granted in connection with a Polish promise to increase coal deliveries in 1983-84.

Warsaw reportedly has asked the Swiss Government for a guarantee on a \$150-200 million loan requested from Swiss banks for the purchase of foodstuffs.

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